

It will be interesting to recognize, when these lists are published, any possible resemblances between the fern flora of temperate northern China and our American conditions. Such publications as those indicated will also serve as the basis for further exploratory study in the field. It is certain that the hinterland of China still harbors many fern species as yet unknown to science.

Shorter Notes

AN ISLAND VARIETY OF CHEILANTHES PENINSULARIS.—A small collection of ferns from the Revillagigedo Islands was recently submitted to me for examination. It consisted for the most part of wide-ranging tropical species; but in some instances the island specimens were of interest as showing, in slight variations from the usual types, the beginnings of endemism in their isolated habitat—200 to 350 miles from the nearest point on the mainland, the tip of Lower California. In one case, of a species itself rather local, the variation had progressed so far as, I think, to justify taxonomic recognition. The plant in question is accordingly here proposed as:

CHEILANTHES PENINSULARIS Maxon, var. INSULARIS. In habit, outline and structure of the lamina like the typical form, but generally stouter. The rachis and costae bear articulate fibrils and linear-attenuate, entire scales, which arise from projecting clusters of sclerotic cells which persist as pustulate roughenings after the scale has fallen; or they are, in age, glabrate.¹—SOCORRO ISLAND: without definite locality, *C. H. Townsend*, 1889 (U. S. Nat. Herb.); *A. W. Anthony*, March–June, 1897

¹ CHEILANTHES PENINSULARIS, var. *insularis*, var. nov., habitu et laminae structura ambituque formae typicae simillima, sed saepius robustior, rachibus costisque paleis e basi prominulo sclerotico sicut papilla persistente lineari-attenuatis integris ornatis vel aetate glabratis.—SOCORRO ISLAND, *Mason* no. 1616, TYPUS in herb. Academiae Scientiarum Californianae.

(Herb. Univ. of California); on north-facing rock wall above Grayson's Cove, very dry habitat, alt. 1000 ft., May 4, 1925, *H. L. Mason*, no. 1616 (TYPE, in Herb. California Acad. Sci.).—CLARION ISLAND: just below the summits of the hills, where it is locally abundant in the brush, April 27, 1925, *Mason*, no. 1571.

The specimens from Clarion Island are much larger than those from Socorro, the fronds reaching 3 dm. in height, and the rachises are nearly glabrous. But occasional persistent fibrils and scales of the kind described above, and numerous pustulate bases of scales which have weathered off indicate that they bore an indument similar to that of the type specimens.

In typical *Ch. peninsularis* the scales of rachis and costae are linear-lanceolate with dilated, erose-serrulate bases and more or less papillate-serrulate blades. Specimens from Comondu, Lower California, collected by *Brandege*, Feb. 6, 1889, are intermediate in their indument between typical form and variety, in some individuals approaching the latter rather closely.

The Townsend and Anthony collections here cited were determined as "near *Cheilanthes Wrightii*" or unqualifiedly as that species. This seems to me correctly to express their general relationship. *Ch. peninsularis* is near *Ch. Wrightii*. The latter, however, has usually a narrower (lanceolate) lamina. All but the upper pinnae are deltoid (instead of oblong-ovate, as in *Ch. peninsularis*), and the pinnules are commonly rather narrowly oblong (instead of oblong-ovate). Rachis and costae are usually glabrous; in the infrequent cases where they bear a sparse paleaceous indument, its scales are smaller, more delicate, and smaller-celled than in *Ch. peninsularis*.—C. A. WEATHERBY, *Gray Herbarium*.

FIREWORKS FROM A "FERN."—It has long been a matter of general knowledge to the writer that *Lycopodium* spores can be used as fireworks material, but it is only